

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 04494 032146Z

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ACTION ARA-20

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1891

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 4494

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MX, CI

SUBJECT: FOREIGN SECRETARY RABASA RETURNS FROM CHILE WITH ASYLEES

REF: MEXICO 4487

1. FOREIGN SECRETARY RABASA RETURNED TO MEXICO JUNE 2 BRINGING WITH HIM FROM SANTIAGO 71 (ONE REPORT SAYS 72) PERSONS WHO HAD SOUGHT ASYLUM IN THE MEXICAN EMBASSY SANTIAGO. RABASA CHARACTERIZED THE RESULTS OF HIS MISSION AS THE BEGINNING OF A NEW STAGE "OF CORDIALITY AND UNDERSTANDING" BETWEEN MEXICO AND CHILE. HE CLAIMED THAT ISSUANCE OF SAFE CONDUCTS BY GOC WAS WITHOUT CONDITIONS. HE ADDED THAT HIS MISSION CONCERNED NOT ONLY THE ASYLEES BUT THE QUESTION OF COMPLYING WITH COMMITMENTS BY MEXICO TO DELIVER SULFUR AND FERTILIZERS TO CHILE. ANOTHER ISSUE, HE SAID, WAS THE EXCHANGE OF AMBASSADORS.

2. AMONG THE ASYLEES ARRIVING IN MEXICO WERE FORMER TRANSPORT MINISTRY OFFICIAL JAIME FAIVOVICH AND FORMER HEALTH MINISTRY OFFICIAL CARLOS MOLINA.

3. ONE PRESS REPORT HERE QUOTES RABASA TO EFFECT THAT
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PAGE 02 MEXICO 04494 032146Z

ASYLEES WILL BE GIVEN JOBS IN GOM OFFICES.

4. RABASA SAID HE HAD INTERVIEWED FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER CLODOMIRO ALMEYDA AND FOUND HIM IN GOOD PHYSICAL CONDITION AND GOOD SPIRITS. IN ITS EDITORIAL PRAISING RABASA'S SUCCESS, SEMI-OFFICIAL NACIONAL DEVOTES MORE THAN HALF OF ITS TREATMENT TO ALMEYDA, SEEKING AT SOME LENGTH TO JUSTIFY AND RATIONALIZE RABASA'S DEMARCHE ON ALMEYDA AND ASSERTING THAT THIS IN NO WAY CONSTITUTED INTERVENTION IN CHILE'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

5. COMMENT: ASYLEES REFUSED COMMENT TO THE PRESS UPON ARRIVAL IN MEXICO, NO DOUBT BECAUSE THEY HAD BEEN CAUTIONED IN THIS REGARD BY RABASA. RABASA'S OWN COMMENTS WERE RESTRAINED, AND IT SEEMS CLEAR HE DOES NOT WISH TO PORTRAY MISSION AS GREAT SUCCESS AT EXPENSE OF CHILE. MISSION WILL BE TREATED, NEVERTHELESS, AS ANOTHER TRIUMPH FOR MEXICAN DIPLOMACY. OUTLOOK AT THIS TIME, HOWEVER, IS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN MEXICAN/CHILEAN RELATIONS WITHIN FINITE LIMITS. WORTH NOTING IS FACT THAT CHILE WILL NOT REPEAT NOT BE ADDED TO LIST OF COUNTRIES ECHEVERRIA WILL VISIT ON FORTH-COMING SOUTH AMERICAN TRIP.

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